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APPLICANT : JAPAN STEEL WORKS LTD:THE;

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TITLE : PRODUCTION OF HIGH-MOLECULAR WEIGHT POLYLACTIC ACID AND ITS MOLDING

ABSTRACT : PURPOSE: To continuously and simply obtain a high-molecular weight polylactic acid having high quality at a low cost by a screw type extruder using an inexpensive lactic acid prepolymer as a raw material.

CONSTITUTION: This polylactic acid having ≥ 10000 weight-average molecular weight is obtained by subjecting a lactic acid prepolymer having 500-5000 weight- average molecular weight to polycondensation reaction while removing water content by heating preferably at 100-220°C, further preferably at 130-180°C under reduced pressure, preferably ≤ 200 mmHg, further preferably ≤ 100 mmHg in a screw type extruder. This molding can be obtained by extruding the polylactic acid from the screw type extruder.

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